

an applicant to the legislature for aid, either by means of an appropriation from the Treasury to be raised by taxation from an overburdened people, or the appropriation of the land scrip donated by Congress for an Agricultural & Mechanical College. The prospect of relief is uncertain; and at a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees an order was passed to Mortgage the college edifices & lands to secure the payment of a debt of Twenty five thousand dollars, in coin, incurred by a subscription for Bank stock before the war. The buildings of the University afford accommodations for Four Hundred & Fifty students (the number in attendance for two or three years before the war) with libraries exceeding thirty thousand volumes, and a corps of eight professors; (the tutors having been discharged) and has now about 100 students. Its continued existence is in great jeopardy, and even a loan of \$50,000 or 25,000 would be a most important benefaction.

If Mr. P. would visit Chapel Hill, the seat of the University, 28 miles west of Raleigh, which is in the way, & where the Legislature is in session & will be probably through the present month, he would meet a most cordial reception at the hands of the Hon. D. L. Swain, the President, & his Faculty; and if he will do me the honor to come to my house, here, directly on the Railroad, it will afford me great pleasure to welcome and accompany him—the distance from here being about 12 miles.

The only Military Academy now in the southern states, so far as I am informed, is the Hillsboro' Military Academy at this place; it is the private property of a widow¹ whose husband was killed in battle in 1862, & her infant children. It is now recently reopened since the war under Genl. Colston,² late a professor in the Va. Military Institute and a competent Faculty—has barrack accommodations for 150 cadets & formerly had that complement. It will sink in three or at most six months without an accommodation to the amount of three thousand dollars. I do not know whether this species of school is within the contemplation of your friend, but mention it from the great worth of the bereaved proprietress, and the respectability of the instructors, by whom I was yesterday consulted concerning their urgent necessities; and beg leave to say, that in my opinion, no fears need be entertained of a spirit hostile to the Government being cherished at this institution.

I will very cheerfully answer any inquiries of Mr. P. in the proper confidence, should he be pleased to address me by letter, as to any other objects within the range of his intentions; but cannot be more specific without further acquaintance with his designs & the amount of donation proposed.

And now my Dear Sir, if I had leisure, I feel inclined to say many things in regard to the dreadful gulf which politicians are determined